

DOCTORS AS HEALTH ADVISERS

"The doctor is all right as a doctor, but as a health adviser, ah! I should hardly think of skinning him, but at least the thought of hitting him over the head is a beautiful one." With this silly sally Gilbert K. Chesterton, the English writer and lecturer, refers to doctors in the public lectures which he is delivering over the country. He attempts to amuse audiences with extravagant statements on the application of hygienic principles.

And yet the health of Mr. Chesterton and all the rest of the traveling public is guarded by doctors constantly aiming to reduce to a minimum the dangers from impure food, drinking water on trains and boats and the sources of various communicable diseases.

Infection from typhoid, dysentery and other water-borne diseases was formerly a very live danger. Those who fail to appreciate the great benefits that our health service is daily conferring on all the people may sometimes entertain Chesterton's beautiful thought of hitting the doctor over the head. The Bolshevik sentiment of Russia was given free rein along this line and went down the road to the end of the trail. Russia is now clamoring for doctors.

The first beautiful thought that enters a normal head that is hit is to call a doctor. A few months ago an accident occurred in the metropolis of this country. Hundreds of people were hit over the head and on other parts of the body. The call for doctors was instinctive and instantaneous—the response was immediate. Hundreds of lives were saved.

It is to the everlasting credit and honor of the medical profession that so many of its members devote so much of their time, study and effective effort to the prevention of disease. Chesterton seems to blame the medical profession of his country for the adoption of the system of compulsory health insurance established in England. He must be reminded that it was strongly opposed by a majority of the medical profession but imposed by the official leaders of England who also seem to believe that the doctors are all right as doctors. They were all right to bind up the wounds of the war, but when they objected to anti-vivisection and to health insurance, "it was chuck the rascals out."

Mr. Chesterton is on his way to California and can spare his breath to cool his porridge here as far as compulsory health insurance is concerned. The medical profession of this state refused to follow the English example of acquiescence, but placed the facts before the people and defeated health insurance by an impressive majority.

EDDIANSIGNOPRACTORS

The Eddyites started something that they will find difficult to stop when they formed an apparent political alliance with the chiropractors in order to oppose scientific medicine. It is reported that a number of C. S. practitioners are quitting to become D. C's.

Among the more noted "converts" we observe the name of Don. G. Husted, first reader in the

leading Eddyite Church of Rochester. He was chairman of their Board of Trustees, Building Committee, Finance Committee, etc., so he had access to all the esoteric wisdom that cures non-existent diseases. After trying the Eddyite theories for thirteen years he thinks there is more in chiropractic. Mr. Husted offers as a reason for his conversion that he submitted Mrs. Eddy's method of metaphysical healing to practical tests and became dissatisfied with its efficacy.

Chiropractic advertises to heal where others fail, and offers its imaginary statistics and typical testimonials in support of its fantastic theories. The C. S. group practically stopped advertising pending the outcome of the litigation between the Trustees and Directors. The present tendency of the practitioners to join the newer cult shows that it pays to advertise.

Editorial Comment

Our friends the dentists of northern California have done a deed that reflects a clear appreciation of eminent service rendered, and that signalizes the self-sacrificing public conscience of a member of their profession. Recently at a banquet in San Francisco, a fine new automobile was presented by his fellow dentists to Dr. Guy S. Millberry, dean of the Dental School of the University of California, to replace the old one which was sadly worn in following the call of duty wheresoever it led over the state. It was a graceful and merited recognition of pre-eminent service to the cause of professional advancement and the maintenance of professional standards.

The physician of all men is opposed to the undue use of drugs. We have too many drugs and too many preparations of drugs. As practice and counsel increase, fewer drugs are used. Drugs do not introduce any new function. They increase, decrease or pervert what is already present. Too often the physician is forced by demand of the patient to use drugs. Popular education should remedy this evil. A copious wastebasket for circulars of new drugs is a necessary piece of furniture.

Some 15,000 deaths occur yearly from diphtheria, deaths which in every case practically could be prevented if antitoxin were used early and properly. The same may be said of the 10,000 and more deaths annually from typhoid. Typhoid can be prevented by vaccination. Its occurrence is a sanitary crime invariably, and should be considered more of a moral disgrace than insanity. Again, the 400 deaths annually from smallpox are entirely unnecessary, and represent simply an incompletely vaccinated population.

Make your reservations for May 10, 11, and 12 in San Diego directly with the Coronado Hotel. The State Society office has troubles of its own.